

Portland, Ore.— This Friday, Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith and US Representative Earl Blumenauer will make an announcement regarding the continuation of Abernethy School's scratch kitchen program.

Abernethy's kitchen program involves children in the planting, growing, and "from scratch" production of their school lunches. The curriculum has been successful in educating students to be conscious of all the steps that go into the preparation of meals and encouraging them to consume a healthier, more nutritious diet.

Lessons learned in the Abernethy kitchen – and through the statewide farm-to-school movement – have helped PPS improve the district-wide lunch program and create a model for school districts across the nation.

New Department of Agriculture guidelines released in January outline updated nutritional guidelines designed to increase serving sizes of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables in school lunches, but also increased nutritional reporting requirements. Abernethy prepares its meals from scratch, creating an additional effort to evaluate their nutritional value and place the program in line with federal guidelines.

Abernethy parents and supporters have been working with Portland Public Schools and Congressman Blumenauer to find a resolution that is compliant with federal rules, does not represent an undue burden to the school district, and that allows Abernethy to retain its unique program.

In April, Congressman Blumenauer invited Abernethy students to present their experience at his Northwest Food and Farm Summit, co-hosted with Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, as a model for other schools to follow around the state and nation.

What: Announcement of the continuation of Abernethy School's Kitchen Program

Thursday, 23 August 2012 15:34

Who: [redacted]

US Congressman Earl Blumenauer
PPS Superintendent Carole Smith
Dwight Holton, Abernethy School parent
Students and families of Abernethy School

When: Friday, August 24th at 11:30 AM

Where: [redacted]

Abernethy School
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Portland, OR 97214